

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary - Public

Date: 10/23/2009

GAIN Report Number: MX9079

Mexico

Post: Mexico

Banana Pest Regulation Modifies Conditions for Internal Transit

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Fresh Fruit

Agricultural Situation

Approved By:

Carlos Gonzalez

Prepared By:

Dulce Flores

Report Highlights:

The Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) published an announcement in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register) on October 12, 2009, modifying an official regulation (NOM-010-FITO-1995) that establishes external quarantine requirements to prevent the entry of banana pests. There are new requirements for international transit of bananas through the country.

General Information:

Introduction: This report summarizes an announcement from the Secretariat of Agriculture published in Mexico's "*Diario Oficial*" (Federal Register) on October 12, 2009, that modifies an official regulation that establishes the external quarantine requirements to prevent the entry of banana pests. The regulation is more specific as to the international transit of bananas through the Mexican territory.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

Title: Modification of the Mexican Official Regulation NOM-010-FITO-1995, which establishes external quarantine requirements to prevent the entry of banana pests.

Executive Summary: The Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) published a modification to the official regulation NOM-010-FITO-1995 in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register) on October 12, 2009. Specifically, article 4.1 is modified to specify that the banana products require absolute quarantine.

The regulation is now more specific and prohibits the entry to Mexico of fresh banana fruit, plants and its parts, as well as containers originating or transiting through countries affected by the presence of banana pests of quarantine importance for Mexico, according to the list that was previously published on November 18, 1996. For international transit through the Mexican territory with a third country destination for banana fruit, plants and its parts, as well as containers, the interested party must comply with requirements indicated in the Phytosanitary Requirement Sheet issued by SAGARPA. Once these requirements are met at the point of entry, the interested party must obtain an Import Phytosanitary Certificate for the transit of the product from the point of entry to the point of exit from the national territory.

Important Dates

- 1. Publication Date:** October 12, 2009.
- 2. Effective Date:** October 13, 2009

Additional Information: The government considers these measures necessary to protect the country from the entry of quarantine pests associated with banana fresh fruit, plants and its parts, as banana production in Mexico has a significant impact on the agricultural economy. Yields would be affected by the presence of several quarantine pests, such as the fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis* y *Bactrocera musae*), the nematode of the banana root (*Radopholus similis*), and *Pseudomonas solanacearum* (type II) as well as other pests distributed in other countries producing banana, or that are present in located areas under official control.

For More Information:

AgMexico@usda.gov

Fax: 011-52-55-5080-2532

Internet Connections:

FAS Web Site: <http://www.fas.usda.gov>

Useful Mexican Web Sites:

Mexico's equivalent of the Secretariat of Agriculture, SAGARPA, can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx and Mexico's equivalent of the Secretariat of the Economy can be found at www.se.gob.mx